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WEST PENWITH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
38, Chapel Street,
Penzance.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the West Penwith Rural District Council for the year 1945.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural District of West Penwith for the year 1945 together with the vital statistics in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 28/46 dated 11th February, 1946.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Hadfield

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. R.H. Hadfield.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	J.H.M. Craze.
Sanitary Inspector.	J.W. Hitchens. (On Active Service)
Maternity Assistant.	J.H. Nicholas.
Public Analyst.	Dr. R. Pendrill Charles.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of Civil Parishes contained in the district 61,088 acres.
Normal estimate of resident populations 17,625.
Number of inhabited houses approximately 5230.
Rateable Value £62,552.
Sum represented by Penny Rate £263. 0s. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births.	270	147	123
Legitimate 247.			
Illegitimate 23.			
Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population		15.32.	
National Birth Rate.		16.1	
Still Births.			
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births		32.25	
Deaths.			
Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population		14.35	
National Death Rate		11.4	

The variety of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have combined to prevent any Comparability Factor being prepared or used hence any real comparison with the National Death Rate cannot be reasonably made.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diphtheria	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	3	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	-	4
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	-	1
Cancer of various organs	18	28	46
Diabetes	-	4	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	11	19	30
Heart Disease	29	43	72
Other Diseases of circulatory system	2	5	7
Bronchitis	2	5	7
Pneumonia	4	5	9
Other Respiratory diseases	4	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	2	-	2
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Other Digestive diseases	5	2	7
Nephritis	4	5	9
Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
Premature births	3	1	4
Congenital malformations, birth injuries etc.	2	2	4
Suicide	1	1	2
Other Violent causes	2	2	4
All other causes	16	6	22
	118	135	253

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 100 total (live and still) births.
	Nil.	Nil.
Puerperal Sepsis.	Nil.	
Other puerperal causes	1.	

There were 11 deaths of infants under one year of which 8 were legitimate, 3 illegitimate (3 males).

Death Rate of Infants under one year of Age.

All infants per 1000 live births 40.7 (England and Wales 46).
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births. 32.3
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 130.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 46 (18 males and 28 females)
Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.
Deaths from diorrhoea (under 2 years) Nil.

SECTION B.

Medical Officer of Health.	Dr.R.H.Hadfield.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	J.H.M.Craze.
Sanitary Inspector.	J.W.Hitchens. (On Active Service)
Public Analyst.	Dr. R.Pendrill Charles.

HOUSING.

1. Total Number of houses inspected for Sanitary defects under Housing Acts.	225
2. Number of houses scheduled under Section 9 Housing Act, 1936.	-
3. Number of houses scheduled under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936.	16
4. Remedy of defects by informal notices	24
5. Remedy of defects by Statutory notices	5
6. No. of overcrowding reported during the year	25

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

As per Append. A.

INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

Within the area there are three bakehouses which receive frequent inspections and have been found hygienically satisfactory.

Two wholesale Butter Factories have been visited periodically and have been found to be in order.

Two dairies:- Messrs, Primrose Dairy and Sandows (Hayle) Ltd., are licenced to pasteurise milk.

Following complaints from a neighbouring authority in the form of suspended matters in bottles, investigations were made of the plants and complaints justified owing to negligence on the part of an employee. This was remedied forthwith and no further trouble has arisen.

One instance B. Coli was found in treated milk and on pathological report was found to be due to a heat resisting strain of bacteria.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ETC.

Inspections of dairies and cowsheds	230
Cowsheds passed for Accredited or T.T. producing herds	2
No. of cowsheds not complying with provisions of Milk and Dairies Order 1926	11
Notices served under Milk and Dairies Order 1926	11
Notices complied with	8

Again no advances have been made in supplying outlying farms with water under the comprehensive scheme mentioned in Annual Report for 1944, as a result no marked improvement can be reported on the general cleanliness of cowsheds.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The system whereby all meat is slaughtered and inspected in the Borough of Penzance is still operative.
Other Foods inspected or rejected as unsound:-

Fish	55 lbs.
Meat & Meat Products	313 lbs.
Milk & Milk Powder	291½ lbs.
Jams etc.	18 lbs.
Grains etc.	172 lbs.
Preserved fruit	168 lbs.
Beans, Peas etc.	71 lbs.
Pickles	2 lbs.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(i)
(a) Standard of fitness of water supplies within the area have been found to be satisfactory. An instance whereby Military Authorities were disposing of barbed wire etc. in a mine shaft causing the water supply for eight families to be unfit for use was reported and taken up with the responsible departments. Undertaking given no further deposit to be made and new sites for disposal found.

(b) Adequacy in some instances requires improvement and the scheme submitted by Penzance, West Penwith and St. Just jointly, difficulties now experienced will in the majority of cases be eliminated if schemes materialize.

(ii) There is a piped supply to the areas shown in the following table:-

	Place	Treatment	Results.
No. of Bacteriological exams. of raw water	Long Rock (2)	Nil	Fair.
	Ludgvan	Nil	Unsatisfactory.
	Goldsithney	Nil	Satisfactory
	Madron	Nil	Satisfactory
No. of Bacteriological exams. of treated water	Mellanear (2)	Filtered & Chlorinated	Satisfactory
	Nanpusker (2)	Filtered	Satisfactory
	Marazion (2)	Chlorinated	Satisfactory
No. of Chemical Analyses of raw water	Long Rock (2)	Nil	Fair.
	Ludgvan	Nil	Satisfactory
	Goldsithney	Nil	Satisfactory
	Madron	Nil	Satisfactory
No. of Chemical Analyses of treated water	Mellanear (2)	Filtered & Chlorinated	Satisfactory
	Nanpusker (2)	Filtered	Satisfactory
	Marazion (2)	Chlorinated	Satisfactory

(iii) No water supplies in the area have a P.H. value lower than 7 therefore no precautions are necessary against plumbo solvency.
(iv) Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.
(v) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied by Public water mains.
(a) Direct to the house 28 % of population
(b) By means of stand pipes 10 % of population
(c) By means of private wells etc. 62 % of population

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

The Council completed and let two houses during the year and have acquired land for 2 houses on which two houses have been started.

CAMPING SITES.

Numerous visits have been made to camping sites and all licenses have been renewed.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It was reported that noxious fumes were being emitted into the atmosphere as a result of effluent being discharged at Hayle. On investigation it was found that although no information could be given by the firm regarding the actual constituents of the effluent it was such that in normal strength it was actually beneficial in the atmosphere and that the stream into which the sewage from Hayle discharges would benefit from its purifying action. Under certain conditions i.e. when these gases were mixed with products of inefficient combustion a lachrymatory gas was produced which although not poisonous was considered undesirable. The firm was approached and it was affirmed that new apparatus for the complete combustion of the gases was to be installed. Owing to labour difficulties this has not been carried out.

No other action was necessary under Smoke Abatement Sections of Public Health Act of 1936.

SHOPS ACT.

Visits were made throughout the district under the Shops Act and found to be satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewage disposal is carried out either by (a) direct outfall to the sea (b) individual purification plants e.g. septic tanks etc. (c) purification plants of L.A. catering for one village. In general the disposal of sewage in the area is unsatisfactory. This is largly due to lack of main water supply throughout the district and until such times as main supply is provided the present system cannot be improved upon.

REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

Removal of refuse is carried out by L.A. and contract and in certain instances owing to the lack of transport difficulties have arison.

One refuse vehicle is now in operation under this L.A. and one more vehicle on order.
Disinfestation has been carried out as and when considered necessary.
System of disposal is by controlled tipping, generally satisfactory.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SCABIES AND VERMINOUS PERSONS ORDER.

During the year 10 out patients were treated as against 30 for the preceeding year. These patients were admitted to the Scabies Hostel at Penzance as against 30 for the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation of children was carried out at the regular clinic at Hayle and at various emergency clinics held in various parts of the outlying areas.

166 children under five years of age and 27 children of school age received full courses of immunisation. The corrected figures after allowing for the number passing into and out of the various age groups showed that at the end of 1945 85% of children under 5 years and 90% of children of school age were fully immunised. About 50 children also received refresher doses during the year.

During the year 2 applications for provision of free insulin by necessitous persons were granted in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2734.

PARTICULARS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES reported during the year 1945 are set out in the following table.

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	No. admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	20 *	16	1
Scarlet Fever	13	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-
Erysipilas	3	-	-
Measles	83	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	-	-

* 2 cases diagnosed as not Diphtheria, and subsequently withdrawn.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods		NEW CASES. Respiratory	NEW CASES. Non respiratory	DEATHS. Respir.	DEATHS. Non. Respir.
1.	1	-	-	-	1.
5.	1	-	-	-	1.
15.	2	-	1	1	1.
25.	6	3	1	1	1.
35.	4	2	1	1	-
45.	-	-	-	-	-
55.	4	-	-	3	-
65 and over	3	-	-	2	-
Total	21	6	3	8	4

VENEREAL DISEASES.

No cases of V.D. were reported.

SHIPPING ENTERING PORT OF HAYLE DURING YEAR ENDING DEC. 1945.

Number.	Registered Tonnage.	No. Inspected. By M.O.H.	No. Inspected. By San. Insp.	No. reported defective.	No. defects. remedied.	No. of vessels reported as having had infectious diseases on board during voyage.
Foreign. Steamers. Motors. Sailing. Fishing.	12					
Total Foreign.	12					
Coastwise. Steamers. Motor. Sailing. Fishing.	82 395	2 1	32 19	4	4	
Total Coastwise.	477	3	51	4	4	
Total Foreign and Coastwise.	489	3	51	4	4	

APPENDIX A.

80	Complaints received and attended to
201	Inspections of houses under Public Health Acts
33	Inspections and Visits re Infectious Diseases
30	Houses disinfected
30	Lots of bedding clothing etc., disinfected
2	Visits to infested premises.
2	Premises disinfested
48	W.Cs. repaired or renewed
11	Inspections of drains
5	Drains found defective
5	Inspections of drainage work in progress
5	Drains repaired or renewed
5	Drains tested with water
4	Inspections re removal of offensive deposits
2	Inspections of streams and watercourses
61	Inspections of food stores and shops
36	Inspections of Bakehouses
70	Inspections of Public Conveniences
60	General inspections of refuse piles
54	Inspections of Camp Sites